Sale of seized Guns

1486. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seized guns are being sold to Members of Parliament only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether market prices are much higher; and

(d) if so, the reasons for low fixing of customs prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy of the Govt. the prohibited bore weapons confiscated by Customs are appropriated for departmental use. Confiscated non-porhibited bore weapons are, however, allotted to departmental officers on lease terms on a selective basis of their security and personal safety while in service; these weapons are to be returned on their retirement/superannuation.

It has been a policy of the Govt. to consider individual requests of VIPs — normally Hon'ble Members of Parliament — for allotment of non-prohibited bore confiscated weapons, if any available in stock with Customs after meeting the above requirements. The weapons sold are for their personal use/safety and carry a condition of No resale. For security considerations and lack of sufficient availability, very restricted sales to VIPs only are permitted.

(c) and (d) The sale prices of the confiscated guns, fixed in accordance with the laid down guidelines, charged from Members of Parliament vary with the type, model & category i.e. pistol, revolver or rifles. Imports of fire arms are restricted and sale of fire arms — where import permitted — is also prohibited. Open market prices of imported guns are not available and hence, it is not possible to comment on the degree of difference between the sale price of Customs and actual market prices. The pricing policy is, however, under review.

Balance sheet on subsidy

1487. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the balance sheet on subsidy;

(b) whether Government have any well-crafted and precisely targeted subsidy plan which can work wonders in case there is imbalance therein; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Total subsidies in the Central Government are budgeted at Rs. 23838 crore for 1999-2000. The details of the subsidies are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below) The endeavour of the Central Government has been to rationalise the system of subsidies by making them transparent and effecting changes in prices of subsidised items wherever necessary. Balancing the requirements of containing the fiscal deficit and the need of protecting the interests of the vulnerable sections of the society, the Government has sought to curb the growth of subsidy on wheat and rice for beneficiaries belonging to 'Above the Poverty Line' category. Subsidy on sugar has also been reduced as a result of better targeting of subsidies.

Statement

Details of Subsidies

(in crores of Rupess)

	Actuals 1990-91	Actuals 1991-92	Actuals 1992-93	Actuals 1993-94	Actuals 1994-95	Actuals 1995-96	Actuals 1996-97	Actuals 1997-98	Revised 1998-99	Budget 1999-2000
A. *Major Subsidies*	9581	9793	9414	10764	11527	12430	14041	18238	21063	22440
1. Food	2450	2850	2800	5537	5100	5377	6066	7500	8700	500
2. Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	400	360
3. Indigenous (Urea) Fertiliser	3730	3500	4800	3800	4075	4300	4743	6600	7360	8000
4. Imported (Urea) Fertiliser	659	1300	996	762	1166	1935	1163	722	238	750
5. Fertiliser subsidy to small and marginal farmers	...	385	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Export promotion and Market Development	2742	1758	818	665	658	318	397	420	575	630
7. Sale of decontrolled Fertiliser with concessions to farmers	...	...	...	...	528	500	1672	2596	3790	4500
B. *Debt Relief to Farmers*	1502	1425	1500	500	341	...	...	...	...	...
C. *Other Subsidies*	1075	1035	1081	1418	1064	942	2323	1249	3620	1398
8. Railways	283	312	353	412	420	388	468	526	618	710
9. Mill-made Cloth	10	15	15	16	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Handloom Cloth	185	187	161	174	148	126	89	64	42	40
11. Import/Export of sugar Edible Oils etc.	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	20	105	50
12. Interest Subsidies	379	316	113	113	76	34	1222	78	1436	73
13. Assistance for fertilizer promotion	...	...	340	517	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Other Subsidies	218	205	99	186	420	294	544	561	1419	525
TOTAL-SUBSIDIES	12158	12253	11995	12682	12932	13372	16364	19487	24683	23838

White Paper on economic condition of Orissa

1488. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director, World Bank, Mr. Lim along with other representatives visited Orissa and suggested to the Orissa Government for release of a White Paper on State's prevailing economic condition; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes. A World Bank team led by their Country Director, India visited Orissa from 7th to 9th February, 1999. The Bank had earlier studied the State's Finances and produced a report titled "Fiscal Reform and Economic Growth in Orissa: An update". They suggested some measures to be taken by the State Government which included building up of public support for reform programme by issue of a white paper. The State Government has deferred issue of the white paper.

Recovery of dues by Debt Recovery Tribunals

1489. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Debt Recovery Tribunals have not been efficient in the recovery of dues from the Borrowers;